

Absolutism Review

Much of 17th century European societies were ____A____ in nature, meaning the father was the head of the household. Wars and famine were common. The ____B____ had granted freedom to worship as a Lutheran or Catholic in the Holy Roman Empire, but it's lack of recognition of Calvinism led to the ____C____ War. Ironically, the ____D____ actually sided with the Protestants in that war and ended up being the unofficial "winner." The ____E____ ended that war (C).

In France, ____F____ was the first of the Bourbon monarchs and he issued the ____G____ to recognize Calvinists' right to worship. Many French kings believed in ____H____, the God-given right to rule, including ____I____, the Sun King. As a child he had been frightened by the ____J____, so he had a lasting distrust of the nobility.

He built his fortress at ____K____ and required nobles to live there. He and his Finance Minister ____L____ strongly supported the policy of ____M____, which regulated the economy by creating colonies for a source of bullion and trade. France was at war a lot during the reign of Louis XIV, and the War ____N____ resulted from his grandson being heir to the crown of Spain. The ____O____ ended that war and said the French and Spanish crowns could never be united. Louis XIV controlled the provinces with ____P____, civil servants who answered to the king.

Constitutionalism in England - Rather than absolutism, England established a ____Q____ monarch that limited the power of the monarchs. ____R____ did many things that violated the laws of the land and his efforts led to the ____S____. Thomas Hobbes saw this as a great fault, and wrote ____T____ that supported the concept of absolutism. ____U____ ruled after Charles I, and the ____V____ gave him executive power. It was never fully enforced. His ____W____ were mercantilist policies that led to a war with the Netherlands. The ____X____ refers to the return of a monarch in England. In 1688, James II had a Catholic son, which led to the ____Y____, the relatively bloodless transfer of power from James II to his Protestant daughter, Mary and her husband William. They signed the ____Z____ before taking the crown, which ensured the rights of the people and Parliament. ____ZZ____ praised this revolution in his work *The Second Treatise on Civil Government*, in which he defended the ____AA____ of man as BB, BB and BB.

The Netherlands was ruled as a ____CC____. The ____DD____ was the federal assembly that handled foreign affairs, and the ____EE____ was the executive officer in each province. Most of these were from the House of ____FF____. The Dutch were very commercially prosperous due to their ____GG____ business.

In Eastern Europe, monarchial absolutism triumphed over constitutionalism. It emerged in Austria, Prussia, and Russia and had a powerful impact on culture in the form of ____1____ art. Eastern absolutism was built on a powerful nobility, a weak middle-class, and an oppressed peasantry, a medieval social system called "____2____". In contrast, French absolutism was built on a well-developed monarchy and strong royal bureaucracy, the powers of the nobility were limited, and the middle-class was strong, and peasants were free.

Austria and the Ottoman Turks - Austria emerged from the ____3____ War impoverished and devastated and it had failed in trying to get rid of the ____4____ religion. More important, the Austrian Habsburgs were forced to turn eastward in seeking new lands and power, since they had been essentially driven out of central Europe. This brought them into conflict with several European peoples -- initially the ____5____. Conquest of this region led the Austrians to establish a permanent standing ____6____ and to further reduce the status of the peasants. Next, the Habsburgs turned toward Hungary, which brought them into direct conflict with the ____7____. Much of the conflict was religiously based, the Turks were ____8____, and the Habsburgs were ____9____. The Ottoman Empire was the most powerful military empire in Europe. Everyone was dependent on the Sultan for land grants and power, including the nobility. The talented rose to the top of bureaucracy, the others formed the Sultan's army, aka the ____10____ corps. The goal of the Empire was to expand itself. After 1570, the powerful, centralized Ottoman system gradually disintegrated: Western advances stopped, the Sultan's power weakened and the army was not dedicated and did not keep up with European military advancements. BUT, in the late 17th century, they made one last attack on the Habsburgs with support from the Protestant Hungarian Nobles and reinforced by Louis XIV. In 1683, the Turks held Vienna in a state of siege, but with the help of mixed forces, Austria made the Turks retreat. NO 11 or 12

Even though Charles VI proclaimed the ____13____ of 1713, stating that all Habsburg territories must not be divided when passed on to an heir, in reality no Habsburg ruler was ever strong enough to completely dominate the multi-ethnic region known as the Austrian Empire.

Prussia in the Seventeenth Century - Prussia had also been ravished and weakened by the 30 Years' War. This fact eventually allowed the "____14____," to take a giant leap towards absolutism. With the imposition of permanent taxes and a ten-fold increase in the standing army, he unified the German-speaking areas of Brandenburg, Prussia, and scattered holdings along the Rhine.

The Consolidation of Prussian Absolutism - After one weak intervening ruler, Frederick William I, "____15____," came to power in 1713 (the same year as the ____16 (see #13) _____ in Austria, to give you some comparative perspective.) Frederick William I was crude, dangerous, psychoneurotic, but very talented. He established Prussian Absolutism and gave it a unique character. He created the best army in size in Europe. He infused strict military values into society and was a "royal bully." He had a LOVE for the army and military life and for ____17____ soldiers, called ____18____. He once said: "The most beautiful girl or woman in the world would be a matter of indifference to me, but ____19____ soldiers – they are my weakness." He believed that the welfare of the King and State depended on the army. In turn, he created a strong centralized bureaucracy, and, similar to Louis XIV's policies, he subdued the nobles, known as ____20____, in this case making them all army officers. Prussia's military obsession led Prussia to be known as the "____21____." Military obsession + harsh peasant bondage + tyranny lay the foundations for the most militaristic country of modern times, a trait which would stretch into the 20th century in Prussia's successor country called ____22____.

The Development of Russia

The absolute monarchy led by Peter the Great in Russia was quite a different type of absolute monarchy from that of France or even Prussia. Before Peter the Great came to the throne in 1689, Ivan IV, known as "____23____," bound peasants to their landlords himself by making them ____24____. There were also conflicts over control and practice within the ____25____ Church. After this split, the people became alienated from the church, despite its claim to being the ____26____ Rome. Peasant revolts and an overly pious Romanov Tsar led to increased repression and limited commercial, cultural, and political contact with western Europe.

The Reforms of Peter the Great - Peter the Great's prime interest was in ____27____, and not in some grandiose westernization plan. But to accomplish this goal Peter initiated a number of reforms during his long reign (1689-1725). Peter's primary enemy was the Swedish king, ____28____, but he also fought and gained territory from the ____29____ to the south. With the goal of gaining access to a port on the Baltic Sea, Peter initiated the Great Northern War, which lasted from 1700 to 1721. Peter's greatest victory over Sweden was at ____30____. Peter consolidated his grip on the nobles, called the "____31____." He created schools and required every young nobleman to attend 5 years of compulsory education away from home. Peter also recruited talented ____32____ for his force. He conscripted peasants to serve in military and non-military capacities for ____33____. Peter created and established state ownership over major industries, such as ship-building and mining. He created a navy and reformed the legal and political structure.

Under Peter, Russian serfdom became more oppressive. In the end, Russia won the Great Northern War against Sweden, and it became the dominant power on the Baltic Sea and a European Great Power. Peter's reforms were a success. Peter was also very interested in foreign technology, which in turn brought much foreign ideas into the country, which created a class of educated Russians. This increased the gap even more between the enserfed peasants and the educated nobility.

Absolutism and the Baroque - During this time, palaces equaled power. Dramatic baroque palaces symbolized the age of absolutism, just as the soaring ____34____ cathedrals had expressed the idealized spirit of the Middle Ages. Their purpose was to overawe the people with the Monarch's strength and serve as visual equalities with Louis XIV – modeled after ____35____. Austria built ____36____ – an enormous Viennese Versailles to celebrate military victories, and Sweden built the Royal Palace that dominated the center of Stockholm. The intent of Baroque art was simple: to provide dramatic emotional experiences. Artists went beyond the traditional artistic frontier: they covered buildings with wildly colorful paintings, graceful sculptures, and fanciful carvings – very lavish. At the time, artistic achievement and political statement reinforced each other. But palaces were not enough. Monarchs rebuilt capital cities to reflect the centralization of political power. The new layout of the cities (large avenues instead of twisting streets) increased the gap between rich and poor – "Mind the carriages!" – and was an endless parade of power and position – symbols of the baroque city. A great example was Russia's new northern city, ____37____, his "____38____." In 1702, Peter the Great seized the desolate outpost from Sweden. Peter's city reflected his absolutist goals for Russia: a westernized city would make Russia a great military power able to dominate the Baltic Sea. It would also be far from the medieval former capital of ____39____. The architecture reflected Peter's travels into western Europe: broad, straight, stone-paved avenues – houses built in uniform, militaristic lines. Gone were the ____40____ domes of St. Basil's of Moscow. Instead giant spires scratched the sky. Finally, each social class, including a reluctant nobility, was confined to certain parts of the city, demonstrating the power of Peter's absolutist state. The construction of the city also symbolizes how Peter ruled. The peasants were brutally treated and they bore the heaviest burdens. PTG drafted up to 40, 000 men to labor in St. Petersburg each summer without pay. Peasants had to house, feed, and pay taxes for these men. Baroque architecture symbolized the ideal, and represented the reality of imperious royal absolutism.